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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

ABERSYCHAN URBAN DISTRICT

For the Year 1925,

BY

R. J. STANLEY VERITY,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WITH WHICH IS
INCORPORATED THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT.

CWMBRAN, MON.
E CHAS. PRICE, Printer and Bookbinder.

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GARNDIFFAITH,

March, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Abersychan
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report; it is made in accordance with the memorandum of the Ministry of Health.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	...	10,124	
Population	...	1921 Census	...	27,089	
„	...	Estimated (1925)		29,160	
No. of inhabited houses	1921	...		5,570	
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)		...		6,200	
Rateable Value :					
To General District Rate					£95,017 14s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate					£396
To Poor Rate					... £111,000
Sum represented by a penny rate					£462

Boundaries.

The northern boundary commences at a mound on the Coity Mountain, taking a westerly course with the Blaenavon boundary to the low level Monmouthshire railways near Gower's Castle, Cwmavon. It turns at this point in a southerly direction, reaching to Cwmavon Station; then again takes a westerly direction to Garn-Llech on the Mynydd Garn-Clochdy.

The easterly boundary leaves Garn-Llech and the Blaenavon district, continuing with the Goytre Parish, taking a southerly course to Pwll Cefny-Llaw, where it joins the Parish of Mamhilad; continuing along the top of Mynydd Garn-Wen until it reaches the entrance of the Ponty-

pool Park at Pontymoile, here it adjoins the Panteg district for a distance of 500 yards in a westerly direction to Rock Hill. From this point it travels due north, then west, and then again south, completely surrounding the Pontypool area on three sides, fringing and enclosing Penygarn and the Church Woods and Wainfelin and Tranch on the return to when it again joins Panteg near the Lower Race Works.

The southerly boundary takes a westerly direction with the Panteg district, crossing and re-crossing the Great Western Railway (Pontypool to Crumlin) until it reaches the Glyn Ponds where the boundary then continues with the Abercarn district as far as Hafodyrynys, when Abertillery and Abercarn meet Abersychan at the old oak tree to the east of Hafodyrynys Inn.

The westerly boundary starts from the old oak tree at Hafodyrynys taking almost a direct northerly course along the Mynydd-Llanhilleth and Waun-Wen, joined by the Abertillery district until it reaches the mound on the Coity mountain.

Geographical Features.

The western side of the valley of the Afon Llwyd corresponds to the eastern limit of the South Wales Coalfield.

The valley is one of erosion the river having cut through the millstone grit and carboniferous limestone, which outcrop beyond the coal measures.

The millstone grit at Trevethin is bounded on the north by the Trevethin fault. From Pontnewynydd northwards the grit forms a narrow outcrop in the steep western side of the valley. On the eastern side of the valley, at Abersychan, there is an outlier of millstone grit in the last stages of dissolution.

The massive quartz grit of the millstone grit forms the moorland of Mynydd Garn-Clochdy

Abersychan rests mainly upon the carboniferous limestone. The main mass is generally a blue or grey rock of earthy texture, with a little chert, but associated with much thin bedded platy limestone.

The shales below the main mass are rarely visible in the valley, but make a feature on the hillside and throw out the abundance of water which sinks into the numerous swallow-holes in the slopes above.

The dip of the strata on the western side of the valley is into the hill; on the eastern side from the hill.

The limestone below the shales is seen repeatedly in the river bed, together with the narrow inlier of the old red sandstone.

The inlier exposes the upper part only of the uppermost sub-division of the old red sandstone and in length extends two-thirds of a mile; the northernmost exposure occurs 200 yards above the reservoir, where the base of the overlying limestone with a thin sandstone is exposed.

The district is comprised of :—

1. One main valley (the Afon Llwyd) extending from the northern boundary of Pontypool Urban District at Pontnewynydd and the Tranch to the southern boundary of Blaenavon Urban District above Cwmavon station having a total length of four miles.
2. Several lateral valleys, viz. :—
 - (a) Ffrwd Valley, in which are Garndiffaith and Talywain.
 - (b) Cwmsychan, in which are The British, Pentwyn, and a portion of Abersychan.
 - (c) Cwmffrwdor, in which are Cwmffrwdor, Pentrepiod, and a portion of Pontnewynydd.

(d) Cwm Glyn (the northerly side of which is in the Abersychan area), extends from the southerly end of Pontypool in a westerly direction for a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Hafodyrynys.

The following are the elevations above ordnance data of certain prominent places in the district:—

Varteg Station (L.M. and S.R.)	950 feet
Cwmavon Station (G.W.R.) ...	760 „
Abersychan Station ...	580 „
Tirpentwys Colliery ...	950 „
Llanerch Colliery ...	1000 „
Varteg Hill Colliery (Top Pits)	1460 „
The old Isolation Hospital, Lasgarn	1150 „

The heights of the various villages and townships are as follows:—

Wainfelin ...	500 feet
Tranch ...	700 „
Pentwyn ...	800 „
Pontnewynydd ...	500 „
British ...	940 „
Abersychan ...	600 „
Cwmavon ...	759 „
Garndiffaith ...	920 „
Talywain ...	900 „
Varteg ...	1150 „

The main portion of the population reside on the western side of the Afon Llwyd, the various villages being situated on the hillside. The chief industries are coal-mining, steel and tinplate manufacturing.

The coalpits are on the western side of the valley, but higher up on the hillside and some distance away from the centres of population. The steel and tinplate works are situated in the valley.

The male population is employed at either the collieries or steelworks. The district on the whole is healthy, the pits being some distance from the homes; the inhabitants are not affected by coal dust, etc.

The class of house is mixed, a number being old four-roomed cottages, the newer ones six-roomed houses. A large number of new houses have recently been erected by the Council and are of the parlour type.

Recently recreation grounds both for adults and children have been laid out through the Miners' Welfare Fund and certain bowling greens and tennis courts, etc., for the adults, and swings and merry-go-rounds, etc., for the children.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Males	Females	
BIRTHS—Legitimate	581	303	278	} Rate
Illegitimate	20	8	12	
DEATHS ...	287	153	134	9·8

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—

Puerperal sepsis	..	1
From other causes	...	3

Death of infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	57.	Illegitimate	7	...	Total	64
Rate per 1,000 births		106·4

Rates for England and Wales as a whole :—

Birth Rate	... 18·3.	Death Rate	... 12·2.
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Rates for Monmouthshire :—

Birth Rate	... 21·5.	Death Rate	... 10·6.
Infantile mortality rate	... 83·8.		

Both birth rate and death rate of your district compare very favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole, also for those of the County. The death rate this year is again very low.

The infantile mortality rate has risen to a high figure after a steady decline for several years, last year it was 71·7, while this year it is 106·4. There have been 64 deaths of children under one year of age—35 of these died within the first month of life, the cause of death of no less than 32 being premature birth, congenital debility.

Death Rates.

Scarlet Fever, ·03 ; diphtheria, ·06 ; influenza, ·2 ; tuberculosis, ·6 ; cancer, ·5 ; bronchitis, 1·6 ; pneumonia, ·8 ; diarrhœa, ·3 ; whooping cough, ·06.

Poor Law Relief.

During the year £6,316 3s. 7d. was distributed as Poor Law Relief. Apart from the Poor Law service and that given at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, of which there are three, there is no form of gratuitous medical service in your district.

Causes of Sickness.

The district has been particularly free from any special cause of sickness during the past year. In 1921 influenza was prevalent in the early months and measles in the later months of the year, few children escaping. In 1922 there was again influenza in the spring with measles in the winter. In 1923 the district was free from any special cause. In 1924 there was an epidemic of influenza in the spring.

The only serious occupational disease is nystagmus, which affects a number of underground workers every year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

Tuberculosis, maternity, children,	} Nil.
fever, small pox, other	

There is a general hospital in the district (The Pontypool and District Hospital), it is situated at Pontnewynydd and there are at present 57 beds, it is not supported in any way by the Council.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children ... Nil.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(1) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

There are three centres in the district provided by the County Council.

Three rooms are provided at each Centre, the situation being—

- (a) Calvinistic Schoolroom, Garndiffaith.
- (b) Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan.
- (c) Wesleyan Schoolroom, Pontnewynydd.

2. Day Nurseries ... Nil

3. *School Clinics.*

One for eyes.

One for teeth.

One for ear, throat and nose diseases.

These are provided by the County Council and held at the Pontypool and District Hospital, Pontnewynydd, the use of three rooms being given.

4. *Tuberculosis.*—Nil. Patients attend the Pontypool Clinic.

5. *Venereal Disease.*—Nil. Patients may attend the Newport Clinic.

Public Health Staff.—The sanitary staff consists of Medical Officer of Health (part time), Chief Sanitary Inspector (whole time), a salary contribution of one-half salary being paid by the Ministry of Health in each case. One Assistant-Sanitary Inspector (holding the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute) without salary contribution.

Professional Nursing in the home.—The only professional general nursing in the district is that supplied by a private association. There are no nurses for infectious disease cases, but help may be given in this direction by the County Health Authority, should occasion arise.

Midwives.—None are employed by the Public Health Authority, nor is any subsidy paid.

There are 14 qualified midwives practising in the district, they reside:—

Two in the North Ward.

Five in the Central Ward.

Seven in the South Ward.

Chemical Work.—This is done by the County Analyst, Newport.

Legislation in Force

List of Acts, Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health in force within the District.

- (a) Public Health Acts, 1875.
- (b) Public Health Amendments Acts, 1907.
- (c) Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III.) adopted 1891.
- (d) Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901.
- (e) Infectious Diseases Notification Acts.
- (f) The Shops Acts, 1912.
- (g) The Housing Inspection of Districts, 1910.
- (h) The Housing Acts, 1909-19-23.
- (i) Regulations under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, 1885, adopted 1889.
- (j) Regulations under the Milk and Dairies Amended Act, 1922.
- (k) Meat Inspection under Sanitary Officer's Orders, 1922.
- (l) Regulations re cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits, cesspools and nuisances; common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, new streets and

- buildings: slaughterhouses and offensive trades,
made by Local Government Board, May, 1890.
(m) Orders made re sanitary condition of music
halls, theatres and cinemas, August, 1920.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.

The water supply for the whole district is obtained from the following springs and under the control of a public company.

Cwmavon Springs.—Stone's Springs, Protheroe's Springs, Westlake's Springs, and one small spring at Nantymailor. There are no possible means of contamination, the gathering grounds, viz., Cwmavon and Lasearn mountains are all remote from human habitation.

Capacity.—Cwmavon reservoir, ten million; Nantymailor reservoir, four-and-half million, and Varteg reservoir, half-million gallons. Total yield, fifteen million gallons.

Filtration.—The methods of filtration are by means of sand beds and Bell's filters. Samples have been taken from time to time and submitted for analysis and no evidence of contamination has ever been found.

Daily Supply.—Would be about two hundred and eighty thousand gallons and would average about sixteen gallons per head. The supply is constant and adequate except during abnormal periods of drought.

There is no liability of any plumbo-solvent action taking place, the source of the whole of the springs being on the limestone beds.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Afon Llwyd runs right through the district from north to south into which the sewer outfalls all discharge. This river forms an open main sewer for the whole of the valley, and has been the subject of consideration for several years, but up to the present no definite action has been

taken ; this is undoubtedly a seriously polluted stream. The river Afon Llwyd is joined by three tributaries, known as the Ffrwd, Sychan and Nantddu streams. The first two are now free from sewage pollution, subsidiary sewers having been laid in 1904-5 at considerable cost in order to accomplish this desirable end. The Nantddu still remains polluted, but not to such a serious extent as the Afon Llwyd.

Sewerage and Drainage.

A system of sanitary pipe sewers, with cement joints cover practically the whole of the district, even the outlying hamlets and scattered houses are exceedingly well served. There are one or two short lengths of old stone-barrel sewers remaining, which will probably have to be dealt with in the near future ; very little remains of the old type, which has been entirely remodelled during the last twenty years.

House Drains.

The greater portion consists of stoneware pipes with cement joints, properly trapped and ventilated. The old type of box drain is rarely discovered in this district now, although in past years it was one of our worst blots in sanitation.

Closet Accommodation.

The major portion of the district is served by properly flushed water-closets, the remainder consisting of hand-flushed w.c.'s. There are no privies or cesspits to be found in the populous and closely built centres of the district.

The total number of privies and cesspits do not exceed one hundred and are to be found at farms and scattered isolated houses. There are twenty pail-closets serving the hamlet known as Hafodyrynys. In this instance the work of cleansing the pails and disposing of the contents is carried out by the Sanitary Authority.

Scavenging.

The onus of cleansing privies, earth closets and cesspools is placed upon the owners and occupiers in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Bye-laws.

House Refuse.

The whole of the populous centres are scavenged in some places daily, in others three times per week, by the Council staff. The outlying portions, viz., Cwmavon, Penygarn, Pantygasseg and Hafodyrynys is carried out by contract and the collections are made bi-weekly.

Disposal.

At refuse tips in various portions of the district, generally remote from the dwellings. This is not altogether a satisfactory disposal; a refuse destructor has been recommended in the past, but the whole question is now under consideration.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ABERSYCHAN, Mon.

February 10th, 1926.

Dr. R. J. S. VERITY, M.O.H.,

Abersychan Urban District Council.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December, 1925, dealing with the work carried out in the Sanitary Department for the said period.

Number of premises visited	-	392
„ inspections and re-inspections		1364

Nature of defects and nuisances discovered and works called for in regard thereto :—

To open and cleanse choked drains	-	65
— „ „ and flush blocked w.c.'s	-	21
— abate nuisances due to defective waste pipes	-	2
— lay new drains to undrained premises	-	22
— take up and relay defective drains	-	11
— construct inspection chambers in drains	-	4
— lay sub-soil drains to prevent damp floors, etc.	-	2
— repair or fix new vent shafts to insufficiently ventilated drains	-	3
— cleanse full and foul cesspits	-	2
— construct new cesspit and lay drain thereto	-	1
— provide and fix new fittings in w.c.'s	-	67
— rebuild roofless and delapidated w.c.'s	-	27
— build new w.c.'s	-	21
— effect general repairs to w.c.'s	-	12
— strip cottage roofs and re-slate on new battens, etc.	-	25
— repair cottage roofs	-	74
— repair eave troughing or fix new to cottages	-	94
— rebuild chimneys	-	7
— cement render or point in porous walls to dwellings	-	69
— repair or fix new windows and doors	-	94
— lay paving on backyards or forecourts	-	32
— construct dry areas, etc.	-	47
— build wall in order to prevent river flooding houses	-	1
— repair bedroom floors	-	13
— repair defective stairs	-	5
— strip decayed plaster from walls and ceilings etc., and replaster	-	27
— repair and lay new paving on ground floors	-	45
— repair or fix new fireplaces, ovens, etc.	-	14
— provide a wholesome and sufficient supply of water	-	3
— abate nuisance due to leakage of coal gas	-	1
— abate nuisances due to overcrowding	-	1
— remove offensive accumulations	-	9

Action taken in regard to said defects and nuisances.

(a) Verbal requisitions	-	-	42
(b) Written intimations	-	-	206
(c) Number of informal notices served	-	-	158
(d) Number of statutory notices served	-	-	93

Record of work done as a result of said action.

Number of choked drains and blocked w.c.'s opened and cleansed	-	-	66
Nuisances due to defective waste pipes abated	-	-	1
Defective drains taken up and relaid, etc.	-	-	9
Number of new inspection chambers constructed in drains	-	-	3
New drains laid to undrained premises	-	-	8
Land drains laid to prevent damp floors	-	-	1
Repair vent shafts or fix new to insufficiently ventilated drains	-	-	3
Number of cesspits cleansed	-	-	2
Cesspits repaired	-	-	1
Number of pans and syphons provided and fixed	-	-	24
Roofless and delapidated w.c.'s rebuilt	-	-	10
W.C.'s (new) built to serve old premises	-	-	4
Flushing tanks repaired, or new fixed	-	-	13
General repairs effected to w.c.'s	-	-	10
Number of new drains examined and tested	-	-	113
Number of cottage roofs repaired	-	-	22
Cottage roofs re-slatted on new wood battens	-	-	6
Eave troughing repaired or new fixed to cottages	-	-	29
Chimneys rebuilt, etc.	-	-	7
Porous walls repointed or cement rendered	-	-	12
Windows and doors repaired	-	-	13
New windows and doors provided and fixed	-	-	18
Backyards and forecourts paved	-	-	4
Dry areas constructed, etc.	-	-	8
Wall built to prevent river flooding premises	-	-	1
Bedroom floors repaired	-	-	4
Decayed plaster stripped from walls and ceilings and re-plastered	-	-	8

Delapidated paving on ground floors repaired, or floors re-paved in new paving	-	12
Fireplaces, ovens, etc., repaired or new fixed	-	5
Nuisance abated due to leakage of coal gas	-	1
Nuisance due to overcrowding abated	-	1
Offensive accumulations removed	-	8

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

Nil.

Schools.

They have all been inspected periodically and a very marked improvement is noticeable in the way in which the lavatories are kept when compared with former years. The heating arrangement at the Garndiffaith School has not given satisfaction lately and the attention of the Educational Authorities has been drawn to this matter ; it is to be hoped conditions will be satisfactory before next winter.

There has been a full and constant supply of water throughout the year

Housing.

Fitness of Houses.

1. General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses :—

Delapidations through age (many of them being more than a century old), the cottages being allowed to get into this state owing to the rapid industrial development of the district many years ago, when instead of expenditure being upon maintenance it was put upon the erection of new houses. Leaky roofs, rotten battens and roof timbers, damp conditions through porous walls and absence of damp courses, the common fault in old houses built in hilly districts, viz., back-to-earth, which causes dampness and prevents through ventilation being obtained ; delapidated

floors, windows and doors, and decayed plaster on internal walls, etc. There is often insufficient light and ventilation.

2. Defects due to lack of care and neglect by tenants :—

The obstruction of drains, fouling and breaking of sanitary fittings in w.c.'s, is largely due to lack of care on the part of the tenants : an incentive to neglect may sometimes arise from the fact that one lavatory may serve more than one tenement. Handbills warning the occupiers of houses that they are liable to penalties under Sections 16 and 21 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, for causing obstruction to drains and injuring or fouling sanitary conveniences, are occasionally distributed to householders where required.

3. General action taken as regards unfit houses :—

The method adopted chiefly for the last five years under review in seeking to repair and remedy old and dilapidated cottages is by serving notices under the Public Health Acts in the first place, and if this course has proved ineffectual, to issue fresh notices under the Housing Acts (Section 28 H.T.P. Act, 1919, and Section 3 Housing Act, 1925).

If the works have not been carried out by the time that the last named notices expire, the Authority have obtained tenders, etc., and executed the necessary repairs as provided in the Statutes. Below is a list of properties which have been dealt with in this manner, with costs :—

Nos. 6 and 7 Percy Street, Garndiffaith.	July, 1922.	Cost £38/0/0
Nos. 57 to 60 Stanley Road, Talywain.	July, 1922.	Cost £
Nos. 8 and 9 Albert Road, Talywain.	Aug. 1920.	Cost £
Nos. 28 and 29 Commercial Road, Talywain.	June, 1922.	„ £33/15/0
Nos. 6 and 7 Percy Street Garndiffaith.	July, 1922.	„ £38/0/0
Nos. 57 to 60 Stanley Road, Garndiffaith.	July, 1922.	„ £306/4/2
Nos. 4 to 9 Davies Court, Garndiffaith.	July, 1922.	„ £264/4/0
Nos. 12 and 13 High Street, Abersychan.	Jan., 1923	„ £125/0/0

Nos. 1 to 6 Batchelors Row, Garndiffaith	Mar., 1923.	„	£110/10/0
No. 2 Top Road, Garndiffaith.	April, 1923.	„	£88/0/0
4 Cottages, Birch Hill, Tranch.	May, 1923.	„	£113/13/6
3 Cottages, Conway Lane, Wainfelin.	May, 1924.	„	£164/0/0
Nos. 9 and 10 Bailey Street, Garndiffaith.	Sept., 1924.	„	£54/15/0
Cottage at Cwmavon Road, Abersychan.	Oct., 1924.	„	£60/0/0
No. 17 St. Luke's Road, Pontnewynydd.	Jan., 1925.	„	£89/10/0
No. 16 Earls Street, Garndiffaith.	May, 1925.	„	£66/0/0
Mos. 17 and 18 Earls Street, Garndiffaith.	May, 1925.	„	£91/0/0

4. Difficulties found in remedying unfitness :—

In order to get work accomplished under the Public Health Acts, it is necessary to inspect and re-inspect, and follow up the delinquent owner continually with written intimations, and repeated reports to the Authority.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, 1919-1925, excellent headway has been made in this area, as previously indicated, under Section 28 Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, etc.

5. Overcrowding.

There is still considerable overcrowding within the District.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under b). | ... | ... | 62 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts. | | | |
| 1. By the Local Authority. | ... | ... | 24 |
| 2. By other Bodies or Persons. | ... | ... | 36 |

I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | 382 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | ... | ... | 8 |

(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	42
(4)	Number of unfit dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ...	5

2. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners ...	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	4
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	86
-----	--	----

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.—No houses were closed.	
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...	3
4.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
5.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following foodstuffs and meat were surrendered as unfit in the course of the year.

Meat—	75 lbs of diseased liver
	6 lbs of ox tongue
	3 unsound livers
	2 pigs' livers—diseased with cirrhosis
	1 sheep's liver ,, ,, echinococci
	1 pig's liver ,, ,, growth
	1 complete pig's pluck bruised
	31 lbs of bacon
	Leg of pork (12 lbs)

One tubercular cow was slaughtered under veterinary inspector's instructions, under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Other Food—	8 tins of salmon	24 tins of milk
	4 ,, greengages	21 ,, lunch tongue
	9 ,, loganberries	21 ,, sardines
	2 ,, peaches	2 ,, prawns
	6 ,, corned beef	3 ,, pine chunks
	6 ,, pears	1 ,, bristlings
	6 ,, cherries	3 ,, tomatoes
	4 bottles of pickles	

Water Supply.

The following sample was taken and submitted for analysis, and the County Analyst's report reads as follows:—

Sample of Water taken from Town Well, Cefn-crib, near Pantygasseg, April 22nd, 1925.

From the chemical analysis it will be noted that the proportion of nitrogen in this water is exceedingly high and although this in itself cannot be regarded as absolute proof that the water is contaminated, the presence of *B. enteritidis sporogenes* in 50 cubic centimetres of the water strongly indicates animal contamination and I am therefore of opinion that this water cannot be regarded as a safe drinking supply.

Infectious Diseases.

Fumigation by means of formaldehyde has been carried out at the termination of 59 cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

I am,

Yours obediently,

E. J. HEAD,

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—The supply has been adequate and uniformly good throughout the year. Samples have been taken by the County Council inspector from time to time and in a few cases prosecutions have resulted.

The dairy cowsheds and milk shops have been periodically visited by the Sanitary Inspector and the local bye-laws together with the Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-shops Orders enforced. No case of tuberculous milk has come under my observation.

No licences for the sale of milk have yet been granted.

Meat.—Meat is regularly inspected. The butchers are required to give notice to the Sanitary Inspector of the time of slaughter so that he may be present. Any diseased meat is destroyed in a neighbouring refuse destructor.

The administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles has been duly carried out.

There is no public slaughterhouse in the district. This fact makes meat inspection very difficult as slaughtering often takes place in the different slaughterhouses at the same time. I strongly recommend to the Council the erection of a public abattoir, centrally situated, together with the adoption of the humane killer.

Slaughterhouses.—

	1920	January, 1925.	December 1925.
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	5	6	6
	—	—	—
Total	7	8	8

Other Foods.

Shops, bakehouses, warehouses, etc., where foods are stored or prepared have constantly been inspected by the Sanitary Staff and the sanitary conditions of such premises kept in order.

Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

It has not been necessary during the last year to take action under these Acts. Any doubtful article is readily submitted for inspection and opinion.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, and the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations 1923.

Fish Frying Shops.

All the shops have modern well-designed fish-frying ranges. Very little cause of complaint has been given.

Cinemas, Music Halls, etc.

Number of cinemas in area ... 3

The sanitary conditions, lavatory accommodation, cleansing and ventilation have been kept under supervision.

Each hall is furnished with internal pressure hydrants as well as chemical extinguishers. All the hose and fittings have been periodically tested by the members of the Fire Brigade and maintained in proper order.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of factories and workshops, including
bakehouses on register ... 75

Brickworks	...	2
Bakehouses	...	13
Dressworkers	...	14
Milliners	...	4
Bootmakers	..	10
Builders	...	14
Blacksmiths	...	7
Laundries	...	2
Coachbuilders	...	1
Mineral Waterworks		1
Motor Works	...	1
Chair Works	...	1
Cabinet-makers	...	1
Truck Works	...	2
Steam Crushers	...	2

Total ... 75

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	No of Inspections	No. of Written Notices
Factories	32	...
(Including Factory Laundries)		
Workshops	45	5
(Including Workshop Laundries)		
Workplaces ... ..	...	...
(Other than Outworkers' Premises)		
	—	—
Total ...	77	5

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied
Want of Cleanliness ...	5	5
Sanitary Accommodation		
Insufficient ..	1	1
Total ...	6	6

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases. Infectious Disease (Generally).

There has been no epidemic of notifiable infectious disease during the period since 1920. Sporadic cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and erysipelas have occurred.

The Council provides a free supply of diphtheria anti-toxin to medical practitioners in the district. No use has been made of the tests known as the "Schick" and "Dick" in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively.

No vaccinations have been performed under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulation, 1917.

There is no infectious disease hospital in the district.

No facilities exist for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons, but there is a steam disinfector for disinfecting clothing, etc. Premises and articles are disinfected by means of formaldehyde vapour.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	CASES NOTIFIED												Total Deaths	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	TOTAL
	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Scarlet Fever	...	2	...	2	...	8	17	7	...	2	...	...	...	38	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	2	1	1	...	3	8	3	...	1	...	...	...	21	...	Nil
Erysipelas	1	...	2	...	2	3	9	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	
Erysipelas	0	...	

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases.—Ambulance provided by the Council.

(b) For non-infectious cases. —Ambulance maintained by the hospital and the collieries.

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.—These are done at the Health Department County Council.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary:		Non-Pulmonary:		Pulmonary:		Non-Pulmonary:	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
5	...	...	1	...	...	2	..	2
10	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
15	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	...	...	2	4	1	..	...
25	3	3	..	1	1	2	...	...
35	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
45	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	2	...	..	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	11	6	3	3	9	8	0	3

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is as one is to two.

Notification of this disease is anything but complete, but no action has been taken.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No case of tuberculosis occurring in persons engaged in the milk trade has been reported.

Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

No action has been taken by the Council under this Section during 1925.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The incidence of infectious diseases amongst parturient women and infants has been small, there being no isolation hospital in the district home treatment only is available.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case of this disease has been notified to me during the year.

Mortality under the different heads.

Measles, 4; scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 2; diphtheria, 2; influenza, 7; tuberculosis, 20; cancer (malignant disease), 17; rheumatic fever, 2; diabetes, 1; cerebral hæmorrhage, 12; heart disease, 20; arterio sclerosis, 2; bronchitis, 31; pneumonia (all forms), 26; other respiratory diseases, 7; ulcer of stomach, 1; diarrhœa (under 2 years), 10; appendicitis, 1; nephritis, 1; puerperal sepsis, 1; other accidents and diseases of pregnancy, 3; congenital debility and premature birth, 32; suicide, 2; other deaths from violence, 14; other defined diseases, 68.

Meteorological.

The rainfall recorded at Snatchwood Park for the year 1925 amounted to 60·21 inches, compared with an average of 56·51 inches, from which it will be observed the actual rainfall exceeded average by 3·70 inches. The number of days in the year on which rain fell was 210.

As an item of interest it may be mentioned that while in recent years the number of days on which a measurable amount of rain fell has shown a tendency to decrease, the actual rainfall has inclined to increase.

To enable the various months to be compared, a table is appended showing the actual rainfall with differences as to average during the year under review :—

	Average inches.	Actual inches.	Plus inches.	Minus inches.
January ..	5'53	6'75	1'23	—
February...	5'07	10'59	5'62	—
March ...	5'07	1'07	—	4'00
April ...	3'95	4'27	0'32	—
May ...	3'30	6'11	2'81	—
June ...	3'00	0'61	—	2'39
July ...	3'57	2'88	—	0'69
August ...	4'94	6'18	1'24	—
September	3'68	5'07	1'39	—
October ...	6'21	7'17	0'96	—
November	4'66	3'84	—	0'82
December	7'53	5'56	—	1'97
	56'51	60'21	13'57	9'87

From these figures it will be seen that seven out of the twelve months were in excess of average, the two outstanding ones being February, with more than double average, and July, with a fall of a little below double average. On the other hand, March was notable for being no less than four inches below average, June 2'39 below, and December 1'97 below.

An inch of rain or over fell on fifteen days—the same as in 1924—the heaviest fall being 1'92 inches on January 1st. Of these fifteen days four occurred in each of the months February and October.

Recommendations.

1. Public abattoir for the district.
2. Public cemetery.
3. Refuse destructor.

Incorporated in this Report is that of your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion I desire to thank all your Officers for their kind co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am, your obedient Servant,

R. J. STANLEY VERITY,
Medical Officer of Health.

